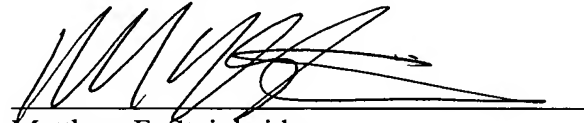


CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the positions advanced in the August 15, 2005 Amendment, which Applicants believe overcome all pending rejections and objections.

Should the Examiner find any impediment to the prompt allowance of the claims that could be corrected by a telephone interview with the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew F. Steinheider

Reg. No. 47,968

HOWREY, LLP

1111 Louisiana, 25th Floor

Houston, TX 77002-5242

(713) 787-1516

Date: 9/14/05